PATENT 28911/345617/2409

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:) I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner Gailene Jeffrey Kenneth HORTON R. Gabel (Fax No: 703-305-3014), C/O Commissioner For Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this date: Serial No.: 09/027,654 March 17, 2003 Filed: February 23, 1998 For: IN-SITU CELL EXTRACTION AND ASSAY METHOD Group Art Unit: 1641 Registration No. 31,879 Attorney for Applicant Examiner: Gailene R. Gabel

RESPONSE AFTER FINAL REJECTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 30, 2002 in the above-identified application in which all pending claims (1,2 and 4-14 and 16-21) stand rejected under one or more of 35 U.S.C. §112 (second paragraph) 102(b) and/or 103(a). Applicant notes with appreciation the withdrawal of the previous rejection over Lundin, U.S. Patent No. 5,705,345. Reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are requested in light of the following amendments and remarks. This response is timely filed as a petition for a three month's extension of time to March 30, 2003 is submitted herewith.